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Naval Analyst Is Guilty of Espionage

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BALTIMORE, Oct. 17 — A former naval intelligence analyst was convicted today on charges of espionage and theft for giving secret photographs to a British military journal and having other secret information in his home.

The verdict was returned by a jury in Federal District Court here after it deliberated six hours.

The analyst, Samuel Loring Morison, a civilian, was found guilty of all four counts in the indictment. Mr. Morison, a grandson of the naval historian Samuel Eliot Morison, faces a maximum sentence of 40 years in prison and \$40,000 in fines.

The case was widely watched because it marked only the second time the Government had used the espionage laws to prosecute an official, or former official, for disclosing secret information to the press.

Ellsberg Verdict Dismissed

In the other case, Daniel Ellsberg and Anthony Russo, were found guilty of copying the Government history of the Vietnam War that became famous as the Pentagon Papers. The Ellsberg-Russo verdict was dismissed in 1973 on the ground of Government misconduct.

Michael Schatzow, the prosecutor in the Morison case, said he hoped the new verdict sent a message to other people with access to secret information. "I would hope that people who are tempted to give out, in an unauthorized fashion, information relating to the national defense, stop doing it," he said.

Mr. Morison, who quietly paced a courthouse hall much of the day while the jury deliberated, stood as the verdict was read. His face was flushed, but he maintained composure. He was quickly ushered out by his lawyers.

An Appeal Is Planned

Mark Lynch of the American Civil Liberties Union, a lawyer for Mr. Morison, declined to comment but said the decision would be appealed. He said his client was disappointed.

Mr. Morison was convicted of violating an espionage law by giving three photographs taken by satellite, classified as secret, to the British publication Jane's Defence Weekly, in 1984.

The photographs showed a Soviet ship under construction at a Black Sea shipyard. They were published by Jane's in August 1984 and reprinted widely.

He was also convicted of "unauthorized possession" of military information for keeping secret documents in his home. Those documents were excerpts from weekly intelligence re-

ports, containing estimates of the damage the Soviet Union suffered from a 1984 explosion.

The prosecution argued that Mr. Morison used those documents to prepare a memorandum for Jane's, which was later incorporated into an article. Mr. Morison was also convicted on two counts of theft of Government property for removing the photographs and government documents from the naval center where he worked.

His trial lasted six days. Mr. Morison was represented by Mr. Lynch and a Washington lawyer, Robert Muse.

After the verdict, Mr. Schatzow had harsh words for the civil liberties union. He accused it of an "orchestrated effort" to "try this case in the newspapers."

At the time of his arrest in October 1984, Mr. Morison was a civilian analyst at the Naval Intelligence Support Center in Suitland, Md. He had served with the Navy in Vietnam and had worked at the center since 1974, he said.

Dual Role Countenanced

For some time, he had also held a part-time position as American editor of Jane's Fighting Ships, an annual reference volume produced by the company that publishes the magazine. The Navy knew about this and countenanced it, but it was a source of friction

with his immediate supervisor, the testimony indicated.

Prosecutors argued that Mr. Morison was eager to get a full-time job on the British military weekly.

His lawyers portrayed Mr. Morison, 40 years old, as a man with a deep commitment to the Navy and strong United States military forces. He is one of many Government officials who disclose unauthorized information to news reporters, the defense argued.

And, Mr. Muse said, he did so with high motives: to inform the public, particularly about Soviet military power.

Focus on 2 Questions

The trial focused on two questions: Was the information conveyed by the satellite photographs and the documents in Mr. Morison's home "closely held" by the Government? And could the photographs and documents "potentially damage" the United States?

The prosecution presented witnesses from the Central Intelligence Agency who testified that there had never been an authorized disclosure of photographs taken by the satellite involved, KH-11, although there had been two unauthorized releases earlier.

Similarly, a naval officer testifying for the prosecution said that the documents in Mr. Morison's home could

have given the Soviet Union "a window on the naval intelligence process."

The defense countered with its own expert witnesses. A retired official of the Central Intelligence Agency who was involved with the KH-11 satellite said he could see nothing of value to the Soviet Union in the photographs.

That witness, Roland S. Inlow, also noted that the Soviet Union had already obtained a copy of the technical manual for the KH-11 satellite.